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April 28, 2024

Casey Sixkiller
Regional Manager
US Environmental Protection Agency Region 10
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101

Dear Mr. Sixkiller,

I am compelled to write this letter out of sheer frustration and urgent concern regarding the grossly negligent oversight of landfill operations by Yakima County Solid Waste, particularly at the Terrace Heights and associated facilities. These sites have been plagued by egregious violations of both state and federal environmental regulations, specifically concerning the unchecked management of hazardous landfill gas emissions.

This grave situation has been perpetuated by the inexcusable inaction of not only the Yakima Health District (YHD) and the Yakima Regional Clean Air Agency (YRCAA) but also the Washington State Department of Ecology. All these bodies have been aware of the violations for over a decade, yet their collective inertia and failure to act have directly endangered public health and safety. The YRCAA, in particular, has stood by idly for years without enforcing any substantial compliance measures, which is absolutely unacceptable.

Furthermore, the situation is exacerbated by the profound conflict of interest presented by the Yakima County Commissioners, who oversee solid waste management and simultaneously sit on the Board of Health. These commissioners are indisputably informed about the ongoing gas emission issues and have yet to direct the solid waste staff to rectify these violations or support the inspection staff in enforcement efforts. This blatant disregard for public safety and environmental well-being is alarming and indicates a severe dereliction of duty.

The chronic oversight failures by the YHD, the YRCAA, and the Washington State Department of Ecology have left me with no choice but to demand immediate and decisive action. The community cannot tolerate this level of incompetence and

negligence any longer. I urge the EPA to intervene directly and conduct a comprehensive federal investigation to hold all responsible parties accountable and to ensure the strict enforcement of environmental laws. It is important to note that Document #11 demonstrates the Solid Waste AND the YHD complete disregard for these continued violations as they do not claim changes nor do they discuss how to rectify them at permit renewal.

I expect a prompt and detailed response to this urgent appeal, outlining the specific actions that will be taken to address this systemic failure. The residents of Yakima County deserve a regulatory framework that diligently protects their health and the environment.

Attached as Exhibit A to my Declaration are copies of the following documents:

1. Q2 2010 Landfill Gas Sampling Report
2. Silvestri May 2020 Inspection Report
3. Silvestri December 2020 Inspection Report
4. YakimaLFG2021Q3
5. YakimaLFG2022Q4
6. YakimaLFG2023Q4
7. Newchurch 7-14-23
8. Newchurch 1-11-24
9. LFG Remediation Plan
10. Health District Landfill Boundary Letter
11. 2022__2023_TH_CH_Permit

Sincerely,

Kris Strutner